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COMMENTS:
Attached please find proposed amendments to claim 1 and a new independent claim 27.

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Application/Control Number: 10/627,191   Page 2

Art Unit: 2167

Proposed claim amendments:

1. (previously presented)

A method of operating a profile group managing server for managing a computer information database comprising:

     A. determining, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of groups for a set of computers, in which each node is a group level and a top level is a root, based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or more of hardware and software configuration, hot fixes, user defined entries and performance data;

     B. specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary grouping criteria wherein said secondary grouping criteria may be unrelated to said primary grouping criteria, and including in those fields, in respective table records, values corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend between a selected high value and a selected low values, wherein said ranges are inclusive ~~and~~ *but not necessarily* ~~includ~~ _ing_ the high value, the low value and values there between wherein said values there between _and including_ include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low value;

     C. further specifying, in the respective table records, information that identifies the groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;

     D. receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from a plurality of computers;

     E. for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing server performs the following:

          extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings

          and the secondary groupings,

1 Proposed New Independent Claim:
2
3 27. (New)   A method of operating a profile group managing server for managing a
4 computer information database comprising:
5   receiving, at said profile group managing server, from each computer in the set of
6 computers, for inclusion in the database, computer profile data from a plurality of computers;
7   determining, by said profile group managing server, a multiple node tree structure of
8 groups for a set of computers, in which each node is a group level, and a top level is a root,
9 based on primary grouping criteria and secondary grouping criteria that correspond to
10 selected computer profile data for each computer, said computer profile data including one or
11 more of hardware and software configuration, hot fixes, user defined entries and performance
12 data;
13   specifying in a group mapping table in the computer information database, one or
14 more fields for the primary grouping criteria and one or more fields for the secondary
15. grouping criteria wherein said secondary grouping criteria may be unrelated to said primary
16 grouping criteria, and including in those fields, in respective table records, values
17 corresponding to the selected computer profile data that are utilized in the primary grouping
18 criteria and the secondary grouping criteria with the values associated with either or both of
19 the primary grouping criteria and the secondary grouping criteria being ranges that extend
20 between a selected high value and a selected low value, wherein said ranges are inclusive and
21 include the high value, the low value and values therebetween wherein said values
22 therebetween include all values that are less than the high value, but greater than the low
23 value;
24   further specifying, in the respective table records, information that identifies the
25 groups to which the computers that satisfy the primary and secondary criteria are assigned;
26   for the profile data received from a given computer, the profile group managing
27 server performs the following:
28   extracting the selected profile data that are utilized in the primary groupings
29 and the secondary groupings,
30   querying the group mapping table to determine if the extracted profile data
31 correspond to or fall within the ranges of the respective values that are included in the

32   primary grouping fields and the secondary grouping fields in any of the records in the table,

33   and

34   if the query results in no records, assigning the computer to a default group,

35   if the query results in one table record, assigning the computer to the group

36   that is named in the record,

37   if the query results in multiple table records that include secondary low

38   values, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the record that is in a first

39   predetermined position in the order in which the records are returned, or

40   if the query results in multiple records and there are no corresponding

41   secondary low values in the records, assigning the computer to the group that is named in the

42   record that is in a second predetermined position in the order in which the records are

43   returned; and

44   manipulating the computer profile data from the database and producing, for a

45   selected group level, reports that contain summaries of certain or all of the attributes of the

46   computers that are in the selected group level or below in the tree.